

**BUMED Oral History Synopsis and Glossary**  
**LT Ana Soper, MSC, USN**  
**Staff Neuropsychologist, Naval Hospital Beaufort, SC**

*Date and Location of Interview:* July 7, 2014, Telephonic Interview

*Interviewer:* Mr. André B. Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

Lieutenant Soper grew up throughout Illinois, Texas, and New Jersey. Always being service-oriented, Soper decided to pursue the field of psychology because it gave her a chance to work with and help other people. After getting her Bachelor's Degree in psychology at Cornell University (BA, 2000), she obtained her Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology at Arizona State University (MA, 2005). During graduate school, she did an externship at the Mayo Clinic and an internship at a joint program between the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, and the Medical University of South Carolina. After getting her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Arizona State (PhD, 2009), she did a two-year fellowship in the VA system of Northern California. Her first job was staff psychologist at the Puget Sound VA working with OIF and OEF veterans as a rehabilitation neuropsychologist. She would remain in the VA system working as a Rehabilitation Neuropsychologist and Clinical Supervisor (Polytrauma), Center for Polytrauma Care, Rehabilitation Care Service Line, VA Puget Sound Healthcare System, Seattle, WA 98108 (2011-2012).

Working at the VA, Soper developed an interest in treating service populations. While attending a conference in 2011, she saw neuropsychologist CDR Carrie Kennedy, MSC, USN speak about the work the Navy was doing with TBI cases in Afghanistan, and got very interested in pursuing a similar path. After meeting CDR Kennedy, she learned about opportunities for neuropsychologists. Soper would enter the Navy through direct commission in November 2012.

In May 2013, within her first 120 days of active duty, Lieutenant Soper deployed to the Concussion Restoration Care Center, Combat Stress Clinic, Regional Command Southwest in Afghanistan as the clinical neuropsychologist and combat stress psychologist. As she admits, six months at this activity would be among her most rewarding experiences in the Navy.

## Key Acronyms

CRCC—Concussion Restoration Care Center, Combat Stress Clinic, Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan  
IED—Improvised Explosive Device  
MOS—Military Occupational Specialists  
TBI—Traumatic Brain Injury  
VA—Veteran's Affairs

## Glossary

Big Three—NMC San Diego, NMC Portsmouth and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD.

Camp Bastion – Camp Bastion (Camp Leatherneck): Camp Leatherneck was built up in 2009 adjacent to a British base, Camp Bastion, in an area of the Afghan desert called the "desert of death."

Concussion Restoration Care Center – Opened in 2010, the Concussion Restoration Care Center was a rehabilitation center in Helmand Province aimed at treating service members with the number-one battle injury: concussions. This first-of-its-kind facility that was developed to aid in the treatment of concussions as well as musculo-skeletal injuries commonly caused by improvised explosive device blasts.

Kennedy, CDR Carrie, MSC USN – CDR Kennedy is a Navy neuropsychologist and a prolific author. Among the many books and articles she has written and/or edited are *Military Psychology: Clinical and Operational Applications* (2006) and *Military Neuropsychology* (2010).

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center – (formerly Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center), Landstuhl, Germany.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal – Awarded to members of the Armed Forces, including members of Reserve components on active or inactive duty, of the grade of lieutenant commander/major and junior thereto. The award is given for meritorious service or achievement in a combat or non-combat situation based on sustained performance or specific achievement of a superlative nature, and shall be of such merit as to warrant more tangible recognition than is possible by a fitness report or performance evaluation.